

Applicant(s): Van Arendonk, et al.
Serial No.: 09/932,101
Filed: August 17, 2001
For: OPTICAL COMPONENT AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME
Art Unit: 2839
Examiner: Prasad, Chandrika

NL000473

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 through 9 have been amended. Claims 10 through 15 have been newly added.

The Office Action **(1)** rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,369,717 to Attridge (hereinafter "the Attridge reference"), and **(2)** rejected claims 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Attridge reference.

Regarding both items **(1)** and **(2)** identified above, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims effectively traverse the stated rejections and that each claim is patentable over the Attridge reference.

Present claim 1 reads on an optical component that has a first element with at least one opening and a light-emission surface, a second element with a light-entrance surface, and a transparent bonding layer of paraffin interconnecting the elements being situated between the surfaces. It is respectfully submitted that the Attridge reference fails to disclose or suggest the invention defined by present claim 1. That is, the Attridge reference at least fails to disclose or suggest "a first element with at least one opening and a light-emission surface". Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 1, are respectfully requested.

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In addition, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 2 through 7, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are likewise respectfully requested.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that newly added claims 12 through 15, which depend from claim 1, are patentable at least for reasons similar to those identified above with respect to claim 1.

Present claim 8 reads on a method of manufacturing an optical component having a first element with at least one opening and a light-emission surface, a second element with a light-entrance surface, and a bonding layer interconnecting the elements being situated between the surfaces. The first element and the second element are fitted together by joining the surfaces so as to form a capillary space, which capillary space is filled by making it suck up liquid paraffin, the paraffin is cooled and solidified so as to form a bonding layer of transparent paraffin in the capillary space. It is respectfully submitted that the Attridge reference fails to disclose or suggest the method defined by present claim 8. More particularly, the Attridge reference clearly fails to disclose or suggest "a first element with at least one opening and a light-emission surface". Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 8, are respectfully requested.

Also, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 9, which depends from claim 8, are further respectfully requested.

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Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that newly added claims 10 through 12, which depend from claim 8, are patentable at least for reasons similar to those identified above with respect to claim 8.

In sum, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable over each of the cited references. Hence, this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, and all objections of the claims, are respectfully requested.

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David L. Barnes, Esq.
Registration No. 47,407
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, LLP
One Landmark Square
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: (203) 327-4500
Fax: (203) 327-6401